

Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission Recommendation Tennessee Valley Authority as Proposal to Auction Mineral Rights

The Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission, a seven member board, set up under state law to advise the Governor on environmental matters, expresses strong concern regarding the proposal by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to auction 40,000 acres of mineral rights in Eastern Kentucky.

The environmental impacts to the Daniel Boone National Forest (where 97% of the minerals are located) could be significant and major from the sale of these minerals. Therefore, EQC joins with the National Citizens a Coal Law Project, in calling for TVA to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), as required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to fully assess these impacts.

EQC also calls upon Governor Paul Patton and Kentucky's Congressional Delegation to fully explore the following options:

- The transfer of TVA mineral rights located under the Daniel Boone National Forest to the U.S. Forest Service.
- The purchase of the TVA mineral rights by the state (through direct purchase, trade-off of tax revenues, and other options) in order to preserve the biological diversity and integrity of Kentucky as only national forest from the impacts of coal mining.

Passed unanimously by the Environmental Quality Commission

Aloma Dew, Chair, Owensboro

Betsy Rudd Bennett, Vice Chair, Louisville

Robert Riddle, Georgetown

Patty Wallace, Louisa

Gary Revlett, Shelbyville

C.V. Bennett, III, Harlan

Serena Williams, Louisville

Submitted to:

Governor Paul Patton

Kentucky Congressional Delegation

Tennessee Valley Authority

U.S. Forest Service, Daniel Boone National Forest

Date:

August 28, 2000

[Link to TVA](#)